

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

§

V.

§

BRIAN SWIENCINSKI, et al.

§

CRIMINAL NO. 4:18-cr-368

**DEFENDANTS' JOINT MOTION IN LIMINE TO PROHIBIT REFERENCE TO  
STEPHEN M. THOMAS, M.D. AS AN "EXPERT" IN THE PRESENCE OF THE JURY**

The defendants – Brian Swiencinski, Vladimir Redko, M.D, Scott Breimeister, Christopher Ince, M.D., and Ronnie McAda – move in limine for an order from this Court preventing anyone at trial from referring to Stephen M. Thomas, M.D., as an “expert” in the presence of the jury. The notes of both the Advisory Committee to the Rules of Evidence and the *Fifth Circuit Pattern Jury Instructions* support this motion. Fed. R. Evid. 702 Committee Note on 2000 Amendments (“[T]here is much to be said for the practice that prohibits the use of the term ‘expert’ by both the parties and the court at trial. Such a practice ensures that trial courts do not inadvertently put their stamp of authority on a witness’s opinion, and protects against the jury’s being overwhelmed by the so-called ‘experts.’”) (citations and internal quotation marks omitted); *Fifth Circuit Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions* 1.18 (“Expert Opinion Testimony”) (“The text of this instruction does not describe the witness as an ‘expert witness’ to avoid influencing the jury by use of that description.”); *see also United States v. Gutierrez-Castro*, 805 F. Supp.2d 1218, 1235 (D.N.M. 2011) (“The Court will allow McNutt to testify, but it will not put its imprimatur on him as an expert witness in the jury’s presence. The Court will not allow the United States to offer him as an expert witness, the Court will not certify McNutt as an expert witness in the jury’s presence, and the jury instructions will not refer to him as an expert.”).

Defense counsel has conferred with AUSA Aleza Remis, counsel for the government. She stated that the government does not oppose this motion so long as (1) the defendants do not improperly “open the door” to the issue of Dr. Thomas’ qualifications as an “expert” witness; and (2) the defendants agree not to refer to their own Rule 702 witnesses as “experts.” Counsel for the prosecution and defense request a brief discussion of this matter with the Court before trial begins.

Respectfully submitted,

<p><u>/s/ Jim E. Lavine</u>          Jim E. Lavine          Texas State Bar No. 12000300          Attorney in Charge          Zimmerman Lavine &amp; Zimmeman, P.C.          770 South Post Oak Lane, Suite 620          Houston, Texas 77056          (713) 552-0300          Email: <a href="mailto:jim.lavine@zlzslaw.com">jim.lavine@zlzslaw.com</a></p>	<p><u>/s/ Jeff Ansley</u>          Jeffrey J. Ansley          Texas Bar No. 00790235  <a href="mailto:jansley@vedderprice.com">jansley@vedderprice.com</a>          Arianna G. Goodman          Texas Bar No. 24109938  <a href="mailto:agoodman@vedderprice.com">agoodman@vedderprice.com</a>          Vedder Price, P.C.          100 Crescent Court, Suite 350          Dallas, Texas 75201          (469) 895-4790</p>
<p><u>/s/ Brent E. Newton</u>          Brent E. Newton          Texas State Bar No. 00788155          Gerger, Hennessy &amp; Martin LLP          700 Louisiana, Suite 2300          Houston, Texas 77002          (713) 224-4400          Email: <a href="mailto:bnewton@ghmfir.com">bnewton@ghmfir.com</a></p>	<p><b>Attorneys for Ronnie McAda Jr.</b></p> <p><u>/s/ Brandon McCarthy</u>          Brandon McCarthy (<i>admitted pro hac vice</i>)          Attorney-in-Charge          State Bar No. 24027486          Rachel M. Riley          State Bar No. 24093044          S.D. Bar No. 2810706          KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP          2121 N. Pearl Street, Suite 1100          Dallas, TX 75201          Telephone: 214-765-3600          Facsimile: 214-765-3602  <a href="mailto:brandon.mccarthy@katten.com">brandon.mccarthy@katten.com</a>  <a href="mailto:rachel.riley@katten.com">rachel.riley@katten.com</a></p>
<p><b>Attorneys for Dr. Vladimir Redko</b></p> <p><u>/s/ Josh Schaffer</u>          Josh Schaffer          State Bar No. 24037439          1021 Main, Suite 1440          Houston, Texas 77002          (713) 951-9555          (713) 951-9854 (facsimile)  <a href="mailto:josh@joshschafferlaw.com">josh@joshschafferlaw.com</a></p>	<p>Mary C. Fleming (<i>admitted pro hac vice</i>)          KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP          2900 K Street NW, North Tower - Suite 200          Washington, DC 20007-5118          Telephone: 202-625-3754          Facsimile: 202-298-7570  <a href="mailto:mary.fleming@katten.com">mary.fleming@katten.com</a></p>
<p>Dan Cogdell          State Bar No. 04501500          Jones Walker          811 Main Street, Suite 2900          Houston, TX 77002          713.437.1869</p>	

<p>713.437.1810 (facsimile) <a href="mailto:dcogdell@joneswalker.com">dcogdell@joneswalker.com</a></p> <p><b>Attorneys for Scott Breimeister</b></p> <p><u>/s/ Justo Mendez</u> Justo Mendez State Bar No. 24057616 <a href="mailto:justo.mendez@hklaw.com">justo.mendez@hklaw.com</a></p> <p>Samuel Louis Texas Bar No. 12588040 <a href="mailto:samuel.louis@hklaw.com">samuel.louis@hklaw.com</a></p> <p>Holland &amp; Knight LLP 811 Main Street, Suite 2500 Houston, Texas 77002 Phone 713.244.6861 713.821.7001</p> <p><b>Attorneys for Dr. Christopher Ince</b></p>	<p>Michael A. Villa, Jr. State Bar No. 24051475 S.D. Federal ID No. 3256126 MEADOWS, COLLIER, REED, COUSINS, CROUCH &amp; UNGERMAN, LLP 901 Main Street, Suite 370 Dallas, TX 75202 Telephone: 214-744-2700 Facsimile: 214-747-3732 <a href="mailto:mvilla@meadowscollier.com">mvilla@meadowscollier.com</a></p> <p><b>Attorneys for Brian Swiencinski</b></p>
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

A copy of this reply was served the day of filing on counsel of record by electronic mail from the Clerk of Court via the CM/ECF system.

/s/ Brent E. Newton  
Brent E. Newton

**CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE**

I certify that on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022, I conferred with counsel for the government, AUSA Aleza Remis, concerning this motion. She stated that the government does not oppose this motion.

/s/ Brent E. Newton  
Brent E. Newton